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FROM: Kika de la Garza

Washington D C

COTTON FARMERS IN SOUTH TEXAS should be happy with prospects for cotton exports to Southern Europe. At the same time, the tobacco budworm, that prolific enemy of cotton farmers, is being researched for eradication by our own Cotton Insects Research Laboratory in Brownsville.

Top raw cotton importer might be Spain for the 1977-1978 fiscal year. Italy should continue to be high on the list along with Greece and Portugal.

Exceeding the usual 15 percent of all raw cotton imports in these countries, the U S expects to improve their share with the closing of the price gap of good quality cotton with other countries. This improvement is also attributed to the good quality of our cotton.

Improvement of quality begins with controlling the cotton pests such as the tobacco budworm. Entomologist Donovan Hendricks at the Cotton Insects Research Laboratory is studying the effects of a synthetic sex pheromone -- a scent that attracts opposite sexes to each other for propagation -- on the male budworm. If the courtship behavior can be disrupted by this synthetic pheromone, propagation of subsequent generations could be halted.

One such synthetic chemical has been found by Mr Hendricks and plans are being made to test this over large areas in the field to see if the chemical will check the tobacco budworm's threat to cotton.

* * *

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF WORLD TRADE, the President has proclaimed the week of May 22-28 World Trade Week.

Each year the Department of Commerce at this time tries to reach each American manufacturer encouraging him to market overseas and to consider exporting as a way to increase sales and create jobs here.

The U S still has a trade deficit which an increase in exports would help. Earlier this year I spoke with the President about the Japanese market for our beef. While no promises were made, recently I received a letter from Texan Robert S Strauss, Special Representative for Trade Negotiations. Mr Strauss will be visiting Japan in the next several weeks and has promised that this topic will be discussed.

* * *

THE TENDENCY TO CLOSE RURAL POST OFFICES has been forestalled by a major recommendation made by the Commission on Postal Service after a six-month study. This is important to South Texas where a number of smaller post offices have been threatened.

The President is due to review these recommendations. If they are accepted, the only way a Post Office could be closed is by (1) a postmaster vacancy, (2) changed

circumstances requiring the closing of the office, or (3) a majority of the patrons voting to close the post office.

The 15th District post offices are important. Hope springs eternal that through the above recommendations, if accepted, these small but important post offices will be protected.

* * *

ZAPATA COUNTY gets its fourth entry in the National Register of Historic Places and Karnes County is to be the site of the new Chevron Panna Maria Uranium project.

The San Francisco Ranch near San Ygnacio entered in the National Register of Historic Places has been named a cultural resource worthy of preservation.

Along with eight other such designated sites in the 15th District, the San Francisco Ranch is now eligible for Federal grants-in-aid for historic preservation through State programs. This area will also be protected from the destruction of its historic value.

Other sites in the District include Fort Brown and Resaca de la Palma Battlefield in Brownsville, La Lomita Historic District in Mission, the King Ranch around Kingsville, Mansfield Cut Underwater Archeological District of Willacy County, Roma Historic District, San Ygnacio Historic District and Dolores Viejo of San Ygnacio.

* * *

KARNES COUNTY'S NEW URANIUM PROJECT should affect the economy of the entire area.

Plans are that the Chevron Panna Maria Uranium project will add 125 temporary jobs during the mill construction period and 200 permanent positions during its operation. It's expected that 90 percent of these jobs will be available to Karnes County residents.

Again, South Texas is contributing to our nation's dedication to finding new energy resources.

* * *

CAREER MILITARY PERSONNEL will receive special attention when Congress conducts a review of the military retirement system.

The House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Compensation has assured me that any changes in the present system will include an appropriate savings provision to minimize the effect on career personnel. This should be good news to all who were justly concerned how the new proposals would affect their years of service in the armed forces.

* * *

OUR TOM LANDRY. Dallas Cowboy Coach and my good friend Tom Landry visited Washington recently in behalf of the Christian Athletes Organization. Coach Landry gave eloquent testimony before large groups of House and Senate aides. There's no doubt about it, Tom Landry's an asset to this fine organization.

Citizens of Mission, the Valley and all who know Coach Landry should be very proud of this great man. His dedication and devotion to Christ as well as his abilities with a great football team together make a terrific combination. When we talked I told him that I was Mission's "Favorite Son" until he started putting out winning Cowboy teams, and I'm perfectly willing to keep it that way.

* * *

VISITORS FROM HOME: Visiting my office from home this week were Mayor Ren Reid, Col R R Ramirez, Mr Fidel Rodriguez, and Mr Roel G Valadez of Alice; Mr Howard W Reed of Brownsville; Mr Ricky Soliz of Falfurrias; Mr Hollis G Sullivan of Harlingen; Mr and Mrs M Narro-Garcia and family of Harlingen, now living in North Carolina; Mr Stephen Steiner of McAllen; and Mrs Edna R Ramon of Rio Grande City.

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